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SUBJECT: AMERICAN PRESS COVERAGE

VIENNA AND GENEVA FOR MBFR AND CSCE
INFO FOR PAOS

1. HIGHLIGHTS. THURSDAY FRIDAY PAPERS FRONTPAGE EGYPT-
ISRAEL POW EXCHANGE. THURSDAY BALTSUN INSIDE HAD
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STRASBOURG STORY, EUROPEAN TRADE OFFICIALS URGE US CONGRESS

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TO RESUME CONSIDERATION OF TRADE BILL SO NEGOTIATIONS CAN START; ALSO WASHINGTON, HOUSE DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE REDUCTIONS WILL BE ONLY ABOUT 3 BILLIONS INSTEAD OF 4 OR 5, IN VIEW MIDEAST DEPLETION OF STOCKS AND DEMONSTRATED CONGRESSIONAL REFUSAL TO WHACK HUGE SUMS FROM TRIDENT AND B-1.

,A. FRIDAY NYTIMES INSIDE HAS SMITH MOSCOW REPORTING ARBATOV SAID THE GENERAL IMPROVEMENT IN SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS HAD AVERTED A DANGEROUS CONFRONTATION ON MIDEAST AND MADE SPEEDY CEASE-FIRE POSSIBLE, BUT HE WARNED NOT TO LET CURRENT PROBLEMS CAUSE WASHINGTON TO LOSE OPPORTUNITY FOR FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS BECAUSE TOMORROW COULD BE TOO LATE. NYTIMES ALSO REPORTS US-SOVIET ACCORD ON CANCER; ALSO WASHINGTON UPI REPORTS STATE DEPT. SAID SOVIET UNION HAS SO FAR FAILED TO RESPOND TO ITS NOV. 1 PROTEST CHARGING RUSSIANS WITH VIOLATING SOVIET-AMERICAN CONSULAR AGREEMENT

IN DETENTIONS IN MOSCOW OF AMERICAN NEWSMEN LEDDINGTON, MOSLEY, CREPEAU.

1B. FRIDAY BALTSUN INSIDE HAS BONN STORY ON SOVIETS ASK TROOP CUTS; ALSO LEWTHWAITE PARIS STORY SAYING WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION IS TO BE ASKED NEXT WEEK TO ENDORSE ESTABLISHMENT OF PERMANENT INSTITUTIONAL MACHINERY FOR CONSULTATION BETWEEN EUROPE AND AMERICA, ADDING THAT WEU COMMITTEE ON DEFENSE AND ARMAMENTS SAYS: US POLICIES ARE OF CONCERN TO EUROPE AND US SEEMS LESS AND LESS AVAILA-BLE IN PROCESS OF LEADERSHIP AND EUROPEANS ARE NOW POSING THE QUESTION: IS US TOO STRONG TO NEED ALLIANCES?

2. TROOP CUTS. BALTSUN OISHI BONN REPORTS US OFFICIALS CONFIRMED YESTERDAY THAT SOVIET UNION HAS PRO-POSED IN VIENNA A PHASED AND MUTUAL REDUCTION OF TROOPS IN CENTRAL EUROPE BEGINNING IN 1975, OISHI ADDING THAT US OFFICIALS CONFIRMED ONLY THAT THE SOVIET PROPOSAL WAS IN LINE WITH BREZHNEV'S OCTOBER 26 SPEECH IN MOSCOW AND WAS AN ELABORATION OF THE BREZHNEV GUIDELINES. OISHI ADDS REPORTS OUT OF VIENNA SAID SOVIET PLAN CALLS FOR EACH SIDE REDUCING ITS FORCES BY 20,000 MEN IN 1975 AND IN 1976
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EACH SIDE WOULD REDUCE ITS FORCES BY 5 PERCENT AND BY ANOTHER 15 PERCENT IN 1977, OISHI ADDING THAT BREZHNEV POSITION IS THAT REDUCTION SHOULD INVOLVE BOTH STATIONED AND INDIGENOUS FORCES AND GROUND WEAPONS. OISHI SAYS SOVIET PACKAGE COLLIDES IN SEVERAL RESPECTS WITH WESTERN POSITION AND AT FIRST GLANCE APPEARS UNACCEPTABLE TO WEST. FIRST OF ALL, SAYS OISHI, WEST HAS HELD THAT AT LEAST INITIAL CUTS BE EXCLUSIVELY IN AMERICAN AND RUSSIAN

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FORCES, A CONCESSION RELUCTANTLY GIVEN TO US BY ITS NATO ALLIES, OISHI ADDING THAT US HAS REPORTEDLY PROPOSED A MUTUAL 30 PERCENT CUT IN RUSSIAN AND AMERICAN TROOPS OVER A TWO-YEAR PERIOD BUT NATO HAS HELD THAT EQUAL PERCENTAGE CUTS ARE NOT SUFFICIENT IN VIEW OF NATO AIM OF CORRECTING IMBALANCE IN CENTRAL EUROPE IN FAVOR OF WARSAW PACT AND NATO PREFERENCE FOR A COMMON CEILING APPLYING TO BOTH EAST AND WEST. RUSH

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